



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Selectmen's Minutes 11/29/2010

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November, 29, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Selectmen's Hearing Room

Present: Mrs. Mahon, Chair, Ms. LaCourt, Vice Chair, Mr. Greeley, Mr. Hurd, and Ms. Rowe.

Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Chapdelaine, Mrs. Krepelka, Mrs. Sullivan, Ms. Bodie, Mr. Curro, Ms. Heigham, Ms. Allison-Ampe, Mr. Tosti, Mr. Foscett, Sargeant Pedrini, Mr. McCafferty, Mr. Collosi, Mr. Lavalley, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Jones and others in the audience for the open meeting.

FOR APPROVAL

1. For Approval: Opening of Warrant 2011

Mr. Greeley moved to open the 2011 Warrant on December 7, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. and close the Warrant on January 7, 2011 at 12/Noon. SO VOTED (5-0)

DISCUSSION

2. Town and School FY2011 & FY2012 Budgets

Diane Mahon, Chair, Board of Selectmen

Brian Sullivan, Town Manager

Mrs. Mahon opened the meeting greeting everyone and cautioned that January was unrealistic for starting lay offs as a budget cost cutting effort in response to the negative vote for the GIC Healthcare Plan. She requested that a plan be made after a no-blame fact finding research as to why the vote was negative.

Mr. Sullivan went over a hand-out summarizing the deficit for FY12 projected to be between \$6-7 million. He explained that health care costs are a major cost driver in the Town's budget each year. After the Town and the Public Employees Committee came together to look at ways of addressing this problem, looking at several options, the GIC was the option which accomplished meeting the defined goals. Mr. Sullivan stated that there is no blame, but that the nature of Town finances is such that the repercussions of no change/negative GIC vote on the budget will cause a need for layoffs, wage freezes, and other budget cuts.

He further states that health care costs do need to be addressed eventually and that it is fiscally responsible to recommend that cuts should be made now in FY11 to help minimize FY12 cuts. Mr. Sullivan will be meeting with Town Officials and Department heads in January to formulate a plan for FY11 and FY12 budget cuts.

Mr. Curro, School Committee Chair, stated their committee will be discussing now the cuts necessary to take along with dealing with the budget deficits from the prior year.

Mr. Tosti pointed out that the disproportionate cuts made in local aid and the negative votes to join the GIC are hurting Arlington's finances. He further states that employee contributions should be increased to help offset some of the health care costs.

Sargeant Pedrini, Ranking Officers Union President, spoke against the GIC plan saying there were too many unanswered questions and that labor management relations are not good.

Mr. McCafferty, Firefighters Union President, spoke against the GIC plan saying the union members felt it was too unstable, further plan information was not going to be available until the spring. He feels cuts in manpower will be devastating to the department and public safety. Mr. McCafferty also feels retiree contribution rates should not be increased, that it would not be fair.

Mr. Colossi, Arlington Education Association President, stated much time was spent on educating the members at 5 different meetings. Although he understands the GIC was the best plan option for the Town, it unfortunately was too difficult and unstable for members to manage.

Mr. Lavalley, Retiree Representative, and Mr. Hughes, Retirement Board Member, spoke against any increases in health care costs for retirees.

Mr. Jones, Local 680 President, spoke saying their members are willing to go back to the table for more discussions.

Mr. Foscett, Capital Committee Chair, strongly encourages the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools to contain cost and move forward and go back negotiating with the unions over health care. Mr. Foscett agrees with the Town Manager that despite the pain steps must be taken now to reduce the budget deficit.

After more discussion, Mrs. Mahon summarized stating that at the next BRTF meeting there'd be more discussion after holding union meetings and gathering more concrete numbers on local aid. Mr. Hurd suggested an immediate hiring freeze, but will bring it up at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Greeley moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Next Meeting of BoS December 6, 2010.

A true record: Attest

Mary Ann Sullivan
Selectmen's Office